



# Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE) *Application Webinar*

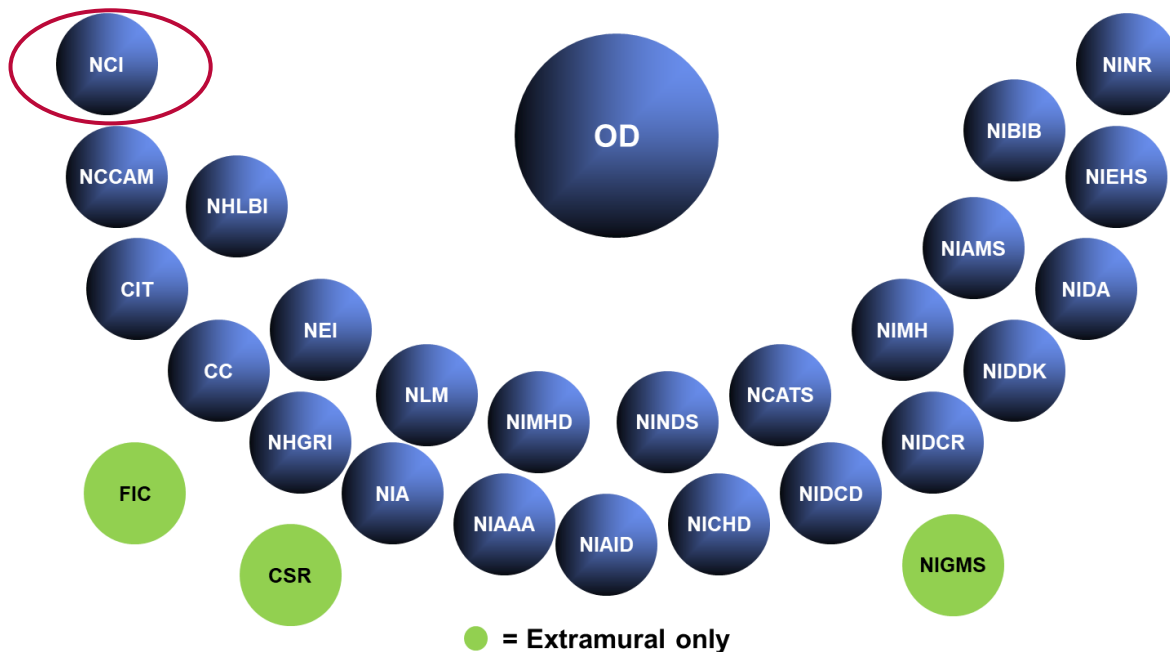
*Jessica Calzola, PhD  
Program Director  
NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities*

# Webinar Goals

1. *Become oriented with NCI and iCURE*
2. *Understand iCURE program expectations*
3. *Learn how to apply to iCURE*



## National Institutes of Health Has 27 Institutes and Centers



# National Cancer Institute (NCI)

**Website:** <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci>

## Organization:

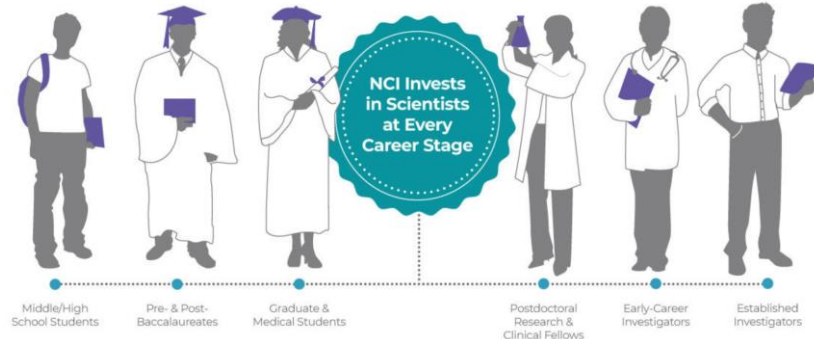
- **Intramural:** conduct research at NCI
- Extramural: support research across the nation

## Priorities:

### WHAT WE DO

genomics  
public health  
clinical trials  
surveillance  
scientific review  
basic research  
drug development  
disparities  
survivorship  
cancer  
epidemiology  
research  
treatment  
prevention  
immunotherapy  
health behavior  
cancer control  
genetics  
precision oncology  
immunology  
global health  
cancer centers  
causes  
grants  
patient education

- Research: cancer health disparities; data science; immunotherapy; clinical trials; etc.
- Training



# NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD)

## Diversity Training



## Partnerships

- Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE)

## Cancer Health Disparities Research

- Basic research
- Translational research

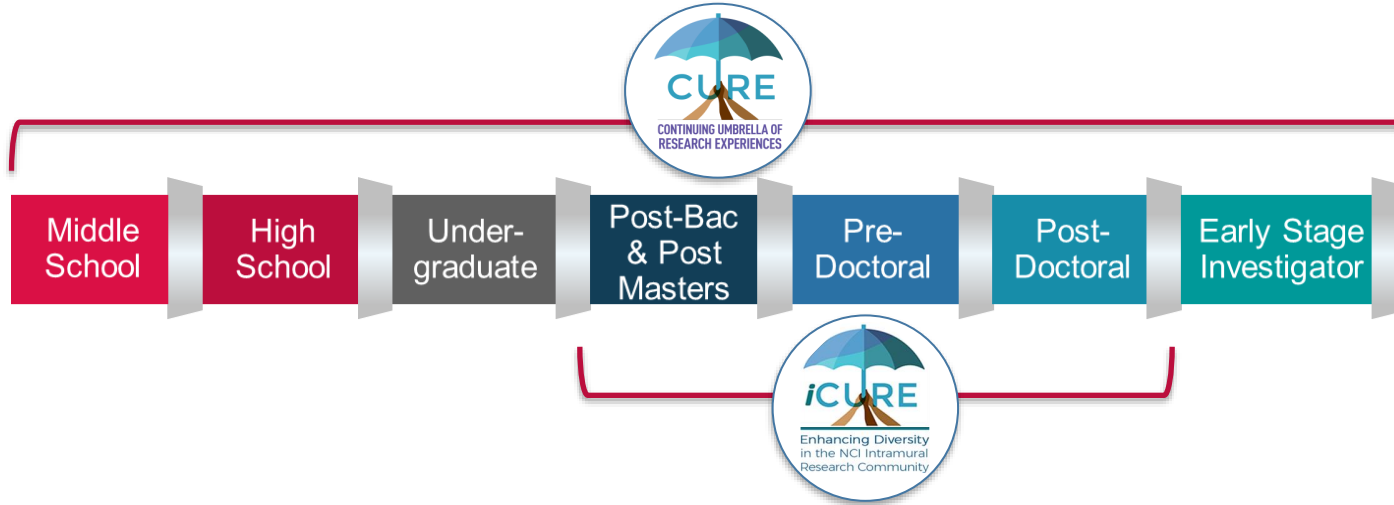
## Networks

- Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMAP)
- National Outreach Network (NON)
- CUSP2CT



# NCI CRCHD *Diversity-Focused Training Programs*

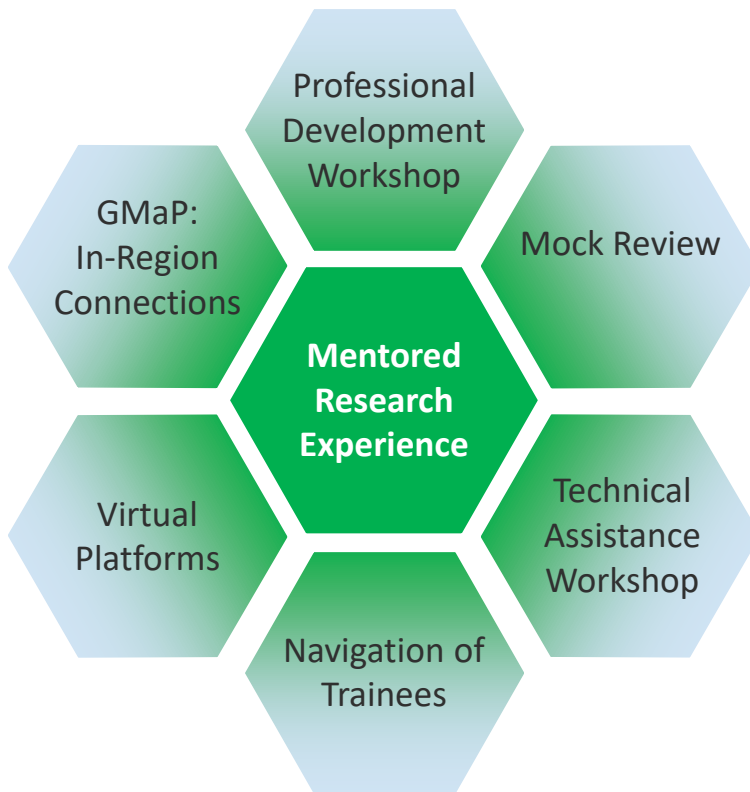
## Extramural: Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE)



- Support research experiences of **underrepresented** students and scientists
- Promote professional and career development
- Help the trainees achieve research independence

## Intramural: Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE)

# More Than a Pipeline: CURE and iCURE Provide an Ecosystem of Support



# Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE)

## iCURE Goals:

- Enhance research workforce diversity at NCI
- Promote career advancement of scholars
- Foster an inclusive environment in the NCI intramural community



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Enhancing Diversity  
in the NCI Intramural  
Research Community



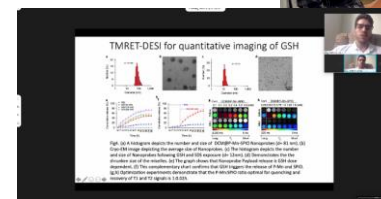
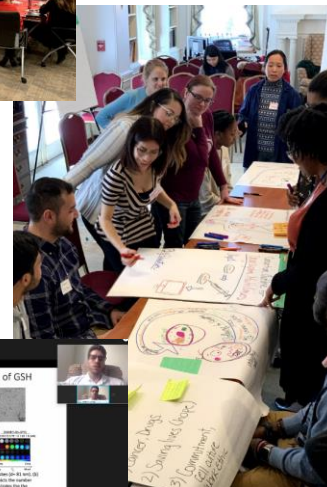
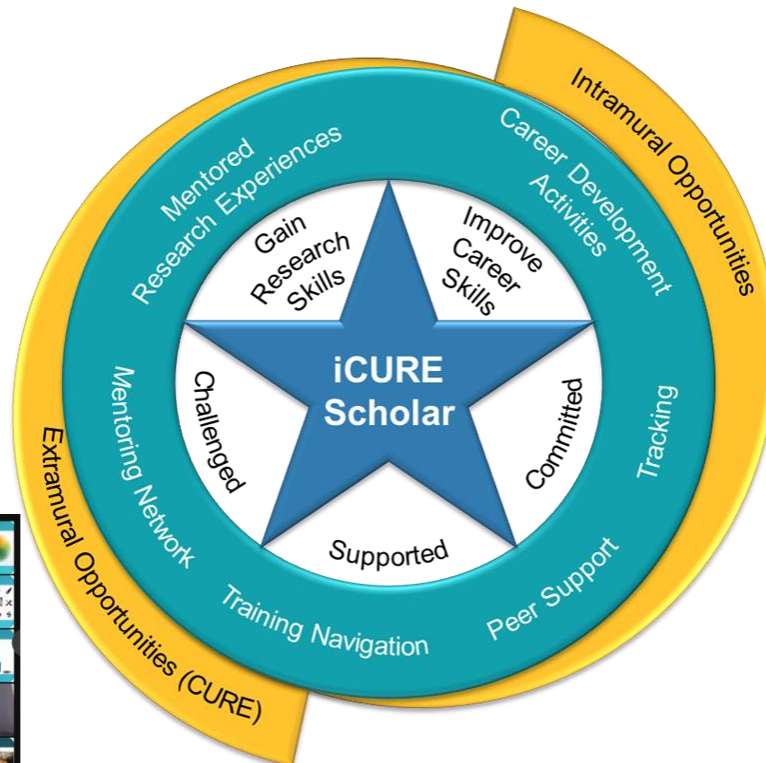
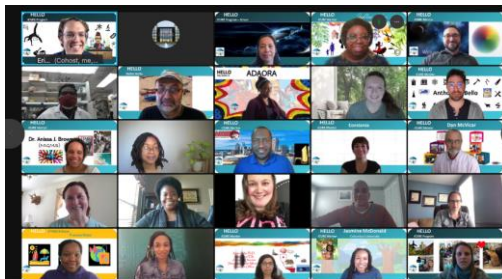
# iCURE Supports Research Experiences at All Three Campuses of NCI in Maryland



- Mentored research experiences on **NCI campuses** in Bethesda, Shady Grove (Rockville) and Frederick, Maryland
- Supports **postbacs** (2 years), **graduate students** (2 years) and **postdocs** (3 years)
- Centralized review and program-facilitated matches for scholars to NCI PIs; **applicants do not need to pre-identify a PI to apply**
- iCURE matches scholars to PIs in the Center for Cancer Research ([CCR](#)), Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics ([DCEG](#)), and the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences ([DCCPS](#))



# iCURE Expectations and Connections



# Career Advancement Goals for iCURE Scholars



PB

Postbac/Post Masters: 2 yrs support  
*Acceptance into a doctoral degree program*

Graduate Students: 2 yrs support  
*Acquire PhD, publish, transition to postdoc or investigator*

GS



PD

Postdoctoral Fellows: 3 yrs support  
*Publish, apply for grants, acquire skills for independence, transition to investigator*



# iCURE Program Experience



## Support from iCURE Program Staff

- Individual scheduled and ad hoc check-ins
- Virtual platforms Hub and Teams

## iCURE Cohort Activities

- Social Committee & Journal Club
- iNET – connect with peers in other NIH institutes
- Gatherings and retreats

## Research

## Professional Development Activities

- CRCHD Professional Development Workshop and Mentored Mock Review
- Scientific focus area units
- Skills development

## Mentoring Network

- Diverse perspectives
- Career and professional guidance
- Cultural and social support

# iCURE Eligibility



## iCURE scholars must be U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, or non citizen nationals

- Noncitizen nationals – persons who are born in American Samoa or Swains Island

### Post-baccalaureate (Incl. Post Master's)

- Must meet both [Postbac IRTA](#) and iCURE eligibility criteria

### Graduate Students

- Must currently be enrolled in a PhD or equivalent graduate program

### Postdoctoral Fellows

- Must have a PhD, MD, or equivalent by proposed iCURE start time
- No more than 5yrs of relevant research experience

# iCURE Promotes Diversity in the Cancer Research Workforce

NCI particularly encourages applications from individuals from groups identified in NIH's Notice of Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)) as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences.

## Race/Ethnicity

- Blacks or African Americans
- Hispanics or Latinos
- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders

## Disability

- Physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities

## Disadvantaged Background

- Homeless
- Foster care system
- First generation w/ Bachelor's degree
- Federal Pell Grants
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program
- Rural or low income/access areas



# Apply to iCURE – Application Process



- Review eligibility criteria on the [iCURE Website](https://ims.nci.nih.gov/)
- An eRA Commons ID is required to apply.
- If you don't have one, please contact [iCURE@nih.gov](mailto:iCURE@nih.gov)
- Login to iCURE Management System (<https://ims.nci.nih.gov/>) using your eRA Commons Username (ID) and Password to apply

Heidi Lisak, Logoff

**NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**

Apply to be an iCURE Scholar  
Thank you for your interest in the iCURE program!

iCURE Eligibility

iCURE scholars must be a citizen or non-citizen national of the United States or an individual who has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

Select the career level below that you are applying for:

**Post-Baccalaureate (Including Post-Master's) Individuals**

Post-baccalaureate (including post-master's) individuals must meet **both** the Postbaccalaureate (RTA Program) and the iCURE program eligibility criteria.

iCURE post-baccalaureate research experience awards will be for one year.

OMB No.: 0925-0701  
Expiration Date: 07/31/2022  
Collection of this information is authorized by The Public Health Service Act, Section 411 (42 USC 295a). Rights of study participants are protected by The Privacy Act of 1974. Participation is voluntary, and there are no penalties for not participating or withdrawing from the study at any time. Refusal to participate will not affect your benefits in any way. The information collected in this study will be kept private to the extent provided by law. Names and other identifiers will not appear in any report of the study. Information provided will be combined for all study participants and reported as summaries. You are being asked to complete this form so that we can process your application for the Intramural Continuing Undergraduate Research Experiences (iCURE) program.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0701). Do not return the completed form to this address.

Apply

**Graduate Students**

Graduate students must currently be enrolled in a PhD or equivalent graduate program.

iCURE graduate student research experience awards will be for two years.

OMB No.: 0925-0701  
Expiration Date: 07/31/2022  
Collection of this information is authorized by The Public Health Service Act, Section 411 (42 USC 295a). Rights of study participants are protected by The Privacy Act of 1974. Participation is voluntary, and there are no penalties for not participating or withdrawing from the study at any time. Refusal to participate will not affect your benefits in any way. The information collected in this study will be kept private to the extent provided by law. Names and other identifiers will not appear in any report of the study. Information provided will be combined for all study participants and reported as summaries. You are being asked to complete this form so that we can process your application for the Intramural Continuing Undergraduate Research Experiences (iCURE) program.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0701). Do not return the completed form to this address.

Apply

**Postdoctoral Candidates**

# \*\*Application Process for Postbacs



Post-baccalaureate (including post-masters) individuals must submit an application to the Postbaccalaureate IRTA Program Application Center (<https://www2.training.nih.gov/apps/publicforms/pbt/forms/login.aspx>). Refer to the [website](#) to set up a Postbac IRTA Account to get started with your application.

**AND THEN** Submit an application to the iCURE Management System (<https://ims.nci.nih.gov/>)

The screenshot shows the 'POSTBACCALAUREATE IRTA PROGRAM' application center. It features a 'Sign In' section with fields for 'Login (Email Address)' and 'Password (case sensitive)', a 'Forgot your password?' link, and a 'Sign In' button. Below this is a 'Don't have a Postbac IRTA Account?' section with a 'Create a new account' button. To the right, 'Security Guidelines' are listed, emphasizing account confidentiality and security. At the bottom, a footer contains links for NIH, DHHS, USA.gov, Contact Us, Privacy Notice, FOIA, No FEAR Act, Accessibility, Non-discrimination Policy, HHS Vulnerability Disclosure, and Disclaimers, along with the NIH and USA.gov logos.

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home for prospective applicants

POSTBACCALAUREATE IRTA PROGRAM  
POSTBAC APPLICATION CENTER

**Sign In**

Login (Email Address):

Password (case sensitive):

[Forgot your password?](#)

**Sign In**

**Don't have a Postbac IRTA Account?**

**Create a new account**

**Security Guidelines**  
As an account holder for this site, you are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of your account, including your password, and for monitoring any and all activity associated with it. You agree to [notify us](#) immediately of any unauthorized use of your account or password or any other breach of security. You also agree that you will not use anyone else's Postbac IRTA account at any time.

To keep your account secure, please follow these tips:

- Always sign out when you have completed your session in the system.
- Avoid using the same password for multiple online accounts.
- Choose a password only you know, and do not share it with anyone.
- When creating your account, use an email address that is personal and private, controlled by only you and not shared with anyone, even family members.
- Consider resetting your password periodically to enhance the security of your account. If you suspect that someone knows your login credentials, [change your password](#) without delay.

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# Apply to iCURE – Application Information



- Name, email
- Citizenship
- Gender and Demographics\*
  - \*This information will NOT be used to determine eligibility or qualifications.
- Your immediate and long-term career goals
- Current NIH and/or NCI funding support
- Academic History:
  - Current/most recent institution with GPA
  - Master's GPA (*If applicable*)
  - Undergraduate GPA (*Graduate students*)
- Anything else you feel is relevant

# Apply to iCURE – Application Information



- Contact information for three references:
  - *For post-baccalaureate candidates, this information will be collected as part of the Postbaccalaureate IRTA Program Application.*
- References will be contacted directly by program
- Friendly reminder – it's always a good idea to communicate with your references before listing them (ask if they will be able to provide a positive reference for you)

# Apply to iCURE – Application Uploads



- Post-baccalaureate (including post-masters) individuals – PDF version of your *Postbaccalaureate IRTA Program Application*
- Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows:
  - **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** include your academic history and research experience as well as any publications, grant applications/awards, honors, and professional experience, including any service on scientific and/or peer review boards or sessions.
  - **Transcript:** A copy of your most recent transcript is required.

# Anticipated Timeline and Contact Information

**Applications must be submitted by January 31, 2022**



Contact the team by emailing: [iCURE@nih.gov](mailto:iCURE@nih.gov)

Webpage: <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/icure>

iCURE Management System: <https://ims.nci.nih.gov/>

# Meet the iCURE Program Team: iCURE@nih.gov



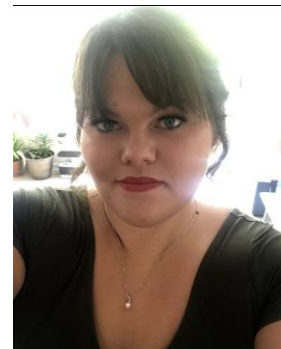
Dr. Jessica Calzola



Dr. Gregory Adams, Jr.



Dawn Reid



Katelyn Garfinkel

Program Directors

Program Specialists



*Thank You.*  
**QUESTIONS?**

**Contact: *iCURE@nih.gov***



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CANCER  
INSTITUTE**

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[www.cancer.gov/espanol](http://www.cancer.gov/espanol)